

granted the petitions of the State, Castle Rock Land/Skull Valley, OGD, Confederated Tribes, and Skull Valley Band and admitted them as parties to the proceeding.

In light of the foregoing, please take notice that a hearing will be conducted in this proceeding. This hearing will be governed by the formal hearing procedures set forth in 10 CFR Part 2, Subpart G (10 CFR 2.700–.790).

During the course of the proceeding, the Board may conduct an oral argument, as provided in 10 CFR 2.755, may hold additional prehearing conferences pursuant to 10 CFR 2.752, and may conduct evidentiary hearings in accordance with 10 CFR 2.750–.751. The public is invited to attend any oral argument, prehearing conference, or evidentiary hearing. Notices of those sessions will be published in the **Federal Register** and/or made available to the public at the NRC Public Document Rooms.

Additionally, as provided in 10 CFR 2.715(a), any person not a party to the proceeding may submit a written limited appearance statement setting forth his or her position on the issues in this proceeding. These statements do not constitute evidence, but may assist the Board and/or parties in defining the issues being considered. Persons wishing to submit a written limited appearance statement should send it to the Office of the Secretary, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC. 20555, Attention: Rulemakings and Adjudications Staff. A copy of the statement also should be served on the Chairman of the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board. At a later date, the Board will entertain oral limited appearance statements at a location or locations in the vicinity of the proposed PFS facility. Notice of these oral limited appearance sessions will be published in the **Federal Register** and/or made available to the public at the NRC Public Document Rooms.

Documents relating to this proceeding are available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, the Gelman Building, 2120 L Street, NW., Washington, DC. 20555; and at the NRC Local Public Document Room at the University of Utah, Marriott Library, Documents Division, 295 S. 1500 East, Salt Lake City, Utah 84112–0860.

Rockville, Maryland, April 24, 1998.

For the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board *.

* Copies of this notice of hearing were sent this date to counsel for the applicant PFS, and to counsel for petitioners Skull Valley Band, SSWS, OGD, Confederated Tribes/Pete, Castle Rock Land/Skull Valley/Ensign Ranches, and the State by

G. Paul Bollwerk, III,

Chairman, Administrative Judge.

[FR Doc. 98–11404 Filed 4–28–98; 8:45 am]

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NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

[Docket Nos. 50–266 and 301]

Wisconsin Electric Power Company; Notice of Withdrawal of Application for Amendments to Facility Operating Licenses

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) has granted the request of Wisconsin Electric Power Company (the licensee) to withdraw its December 13, 1995, application for proposed amendments to Facility Operating License Nos. DPR–24 and DPR–27 for the Point Beach Nuclear Plant, Unit Nos. 1 and 2, located in Manitowoc County, Wisconsin.

The proposed amendments would have revised the Technical Specifications to include the provisions for a core operating limits report.

The Commission had previously issued a Notice of Consideration of Issuance of Amendments published in the **Federal Register** on January 22, 1996 (61 FR 1638). However, by letter dated April 6, 1998, the licensee withdrew the proposed changes. For further details with respect to this action, see the application for amendments dated December 13, 1995, and the licensee's letter dated April 6, 1998, which withdrew the application for license amendments. The above documents are available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, the Gelman Building, 2120 L Street, NW., Washington, DC, and at the local public document room located at The Lester Public Library, 1001 Adams Street, Two Rivers, Wisconsin 54241.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 20th day of April 1998.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Linda L. Gundrum,

Project Manager, Project Directorate III–1, Division of Reactor Projects—III/IV, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation.

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Internet e-mail transmission; and to counsel for the NRC staff by e-mail through the agency's wide area network system.

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

[Docket Nos. 50–282 and 50–306]

Northern States Power Company (Prairie Island Nuclear Generating Plant, Units 1 and 2); Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) is considering issuance of an exemption from certain requirements of its regulations to Facility Operating License Nos. DPR–42 and DPR–60, issued to Northern States Power Company (NSP or the licensee), for operation of Prairie Island Nuclear Generating Plant, Units 1 and 2, located in Goodhue County, Minnesota.

Environmental Assessment

Identification of the Proposed Action

The proposed action would permit the licensee to use American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) Code Case N–514 for setting the pressure setpoint of each unit's overpressure protection system (OPPS) so that the pressure-temperature (P–T) limits required by 10 CFR Part 50, Appendix G, could be exceeded by 10 percent during a low temperature pressure transient. By application dated March 6, 1998, the licensee requested an exemption from certain requirements of 10 CFR 50.60, "Acceptance Criteria for Fracture Prevention Measures for Lightwater Nuclear Power Reactors for Normal Operation," and 10 CFR Part 50, Appendix G, "Fracture Toughness Requirements."

The Need for the Proposed Action

Pursuant to 10 CFR 50.60, all lightwater nuclear power reactors must meet the fracture toughness requirements for the reactor coolant pressure boundary as set forth in 10 CFR Part 50, Appendix G. Appendix G of 10 CFR Part 50 defines P–T limits during any condition of normal operation, including anticipated operational occurrences and system hydrostatic tests to which the pressure boundary may be subjected over its service lifetime, and specifies that these P–T limits must be at least as conservative as the limits obtained by following the methods of analysis and the margins of safety of the ASME Code, Section XI, Appendix G.

By letter dated March 6, 1998, NSP submitted an exemption request to enable the use of ASME Code Case N–514 as an alternative method for determining the OPPS setpoint. NSP